

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fluid connector apparatus adapted for use with a compression apparatus, the
5 fluid connector apparatus comprising:

a connector including a plurality of fluid ports formed therewith that facilitates fluid communication between a plurality of fluid conduits of the compression apparatus and a pressurized fluid source, each of the plurality of fluid ports defining a fluid orifice configured for fluid flow; and

10 a valve being disposed with one of the fluid ports, said valve being operable to engage the fluid port such that disconnect of a fluid conduit of the compression apparatus corresponding to the fluid port from the connector reduces a dimension of the fluid orifice of the fluid port.

2. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the connector
15 includes a first connector having a first plurality of fluid ports and a second connector having a second plurality of fluid ports.

3. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 1 wherein upon disconnect of the fluid conduit, said valve is adapted to approximate pneumatic characteristics of the fluid port having the valve in an open position.

20 4. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the valve completely closes the fluid port.

5. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said first connector removably mates with the second connector.

6. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said valve includes a spring loaded plunger.

5 7. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said fluid port includes a cap portion disposed therein and said spring loaded plunger engages said cap portion to create an orifice that provides a pneumatic behavior approximating said in an open position.

8. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising a gasket disposed to facilitate fluid sealing between said first and second connectors.

10 9. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said second connector includes a locking arm extending therefrom such that said locking arm is adapted to releasably retain said first connector with said second connector.

10. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said second connector includes a slot for engaging said locking arm.

11. A fluid connector apparatus adapted for use with a compression apparatus, the fluid connector apparatus comprising:

a first connector having tubular walls defining a plurality of fluid ports adapted to connect to a first plurality of fluid conduits, each of the plurality of fluid ports defining a fluid orifice configured for fluid flow

wherein one of said ports comprises a coupling port,

wherein one of said first plurality of fluid conduits comprises a coupling fitting adapted for removable mating with said coupling port;

a valve disposed within said coupling port, said valve being operable to engage the coupling port such that disconnect of the coupling fitting from the coupling port reduces a dimension of the fluid orifice of the coupling port; and

a second connector adapted to connect to a second plurality of fluid conduits and mate with said first connector.

12. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said valve includes a spring loaded plunger, wherein said coupling fitting includes an engagement portion extending therefrom and said spring loaded plunger is displaced by said engagement portion when said coupling fitting is mated to said coupling port.

13. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said coupling port includes a cap portion disposed therein and said spring loaded plunger engages said cap portion to reduce the dimension of the fluid orifice of the coupling port.

14. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 11 wherein upon disconnect of the coupling fitting, said valve is adapted to approximate pneumatic characteristics of the coupling port having the valve in an open position.

15. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the valve completely
5 closes the coupling port.

16. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a gasket disposed to facilitate fluid sealing between said first and second connectors.

17. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said first connector includes a locking arm extending therefrom such that said locking arm is adapted to releasably
10 retain said first connector with said second connector.

18. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said second connector includes a slot for engaging said locking arm.

19. A fluid connector apparatus adapted for use with a compression apparatus, the fluid connector apparatus comprising:

a first connector including a first plurality of fluid ports formed therewith that fluidly communicates with a first plurality of fluid conduits, each of the plurality of fluid ports
5 defining a fluid orifice configured for fluid flow;

a second connector in fluid communication with a second plurality of fluid conduits and comprising a plurality of couplings in fluid communication therewith; and

restrictor means within said first connector for engaging the one of the fluid ports of the first connector such that disconnect of a corresponding fluid conduit from the first
10 connector reduces a dimension of the fluid orifice of the corresponding fluid port to approximating desired pneumatic characteristics of the fluid port.

20. The fluid connector apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the valve completely closes the fluid port.